

THE FLY.

SUPPLEMENTARY

NUMBER.

No. 79.]

[PRICE TWO PENCE]

Every purchaser of this number of "THE FLY," is entitled to an exquisitely-executed Lithographic Portrait of EDWARD OXFORD, which is presented gratuitously.—[A similar point with every number. All the numbers of the NEW SERIES may be had.]

MEMOIR OF EDWARD OXFORD (WITH PORTRAIT).

EDWARD OXFORD was born in Birmingham, his father was a jeweller and has been dead about eight years; his mother is still living. Oxford has been well educated, and up to the time of committing the atrocious act for which he now awaits his trial, was considered a respectable, honest, decent lad. It seems to be the intention of his friends to raise a plea of insanity in extenuation of his frightful crime, but from what we have gathered of his past life he has not displayed the slightest symptoms of aberration of mind.

When he left Birmingham, about three years since, he went to reside with his aunt, Mrs Powell, who then kept the king's head, at Hounslow. There he was considered a very forward boy. From Hounslow he came to London, and entered the service of Mr Minton, licensed victualler, and then proprietor of the Shepherd and Flock, High street, nearly facing the police-court, Marylebone, in which house he remained, with some intermission, about a year and a half. His situation was that of barman; a young man named William Hazelwood was also there in the same capacity, but they could not agree, and the quarrels which frequently took place between them assumed a serious character. Hazelwood states that, on more than one occasion, Oxford threatened to stab him, and was once about to put his threat into execution. Much ill-will existed between them, and eventually Mr Minton, who, however, is stated to have been partial to Oxford, discharged him. Subsequently

he was in great distress, and was occasionally employed by Mr Minton; and Hazelwood leaving Mr Minton's service, Oxford was reinstated in his former situation, and continued therein many months, to the entire satisfaction of the landlord. Many persons, who were in the frequent habit of being served by him, have described him to be of a sullen temper, and very reserved in his actions. He afterwards lived as barman at a public-house at the corner of Wilderness-row, Goswell-street, St Luke's, where he continued between four and five months. From that situation he was engaged by Mr Robinson, proprietor of the Rag-in-the-Pound, South Moulton-street, Oxford-street, to which he was recommended by a gentleman who felt an interest in his welfare, and who had watched his conduct for several years. That gentleman states that he has seen many lads who have been employed by licensed victuallers, and he felt the utmost confidence in saying that he never knew one who behaved himself more correctly and properly. Our informant saw the gentleman alluded to at Mr Robinson's, and he stated that he was quite convinced that Oxford could not possibly have conceived the idea of forming a design to take away the lives of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, and that he must have been urged to it by some other party. On the day he left Mr Robinson's he called at the Shepherd and Flock, and saw the present barman, George Jay, to whom he mentioned that he had left Mr Robinson, and had obtained

an excellent situation in a merchant's house in the city, at the same time remarking, that before he entered upon his duty he should take a trip for a few days in the country. He afterwards called on Mr Hobbs, the present proprietor of the Shepherd and Flock; he had a young man with him and they were both very respectably dressed. On the following Saturday he called at the White Horse, Knightsbridge, to see a young woman who had been a servant at Mr Minton's, and who had been his being barman, and who had been serving that he was still there, and liking to remain, which was the very reverse of the fact, he having quitted the public-house in question on the 1st ult.

As the career of Oxford during the few days has become common talk, it is unnecessary for us to fill the columns of "THE FLY" with matter with which our readers are well acquainted, our last number (78) containing a well condensed and highly interesting account of the monstrous event, which has attached so much importance to young Oxford's name; and we feel proud that amongst the great variety of prints which have issued from the press, our own is unanimously allowed to take precedence, as a faithful and spirited presentation of the atrocious attempt.

* Almost every weekly periodical published in London, has contained a representation of the attempted assassinations; and it is hardly necessary to compare the productions of the various artists.

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EDWARD OXFORD,
WHO ATTEMPTED TO
ASSASSINATE THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT.
ON THE 10th OF JUNE 1840.

Drawn from Life & presented GRATIS with No. 79 of the FLY